AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, after the title of the invention, insert the following new paragraph:

The present application is a continuation of International Application PCT/EP02/10560 FILED ON September 20, 2002, and which claims the priority of Patent Application Serial No. 01/12469 filed in France on September 27, 2001, the entire content of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Page 1, before line 3, "The invention relates ..." insert the following heading

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Page 2, replace the paragraph beginning at line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

~~Document FR 2 418 719~~ French Patent 2,418,79 (corresponding to U.S. Patent 4,298,046) in particular describes incisions which may be normal to the surface of the trad or inclined relative to the direction perpendicular to said surface.

Page 2, replace the paragraph beginning at line 24 with the following amended paragraph

~~Document~~ EP 0 282 765 (corresponding to U.S. Patent No.. 4,794,965) describes in particular incisions which exhibit broken or wavy lines over the entire depth thereof. When subject to radial compression, the walls of the incisions move closer to one another, so promoting an increase in longitudinal rigidity, the overlapping of said walls resulting in a self-locking effect.

Page 3, replace the paragraph beginning at line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

~~Document FR 2 722 144~~ French Patent 2,722,144 (corresponding to U.S. Patent No. 5,783,002) also describes incisions, the walls of which each comprise zones in relief formed by protrusions and cavities designed as before to overlap under radial compression. Overlapping then results in an increase in longitudinal and transverse rigidities.

Page 3, before line 9, insert the heading

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Page 4, replace the paragraph beginning at line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

According to a preferred embodiment of the invention, the mean direction of the lateral holes forms an angle other than zero with the circumferential direction of the tread. According to this embodiment of the invention, it is possible to produce the tire industrially for example using methods described in ~~document~~ EP 0 925 907 (corresponding to U.S. Patent No. 6,143,223).

Page 6, before line 26, insert the heading

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Page 7, before line 12, insert the heading

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

Replace the paragraph bridges pages 7-8 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 1 is a view along the axis of rotation of the tire, that is to say in the direction transverse to the direction of travel shown by the arrow 3. The block 1 comprises incisions 4 over at least part of its height. These incisions are provided in particular to create ridges 5 on the surface of the tread 2, so as to improve grip of the tire on damp surfaces, said supplementary ridges allowing the film of water on the surface of the ground to be cut through more frequently. The incisions 4 of Figure 1 are produced by the methods known to the person skilled in the art, so as to form broken lines. The invention is not of course limited to such incisions and applies to all types of incisions. The incisions shown have the advantage, however, of being of the self-locking type and of contributing to an increase in longitudinal rigidity. In effect, independently of the invention, it would appear that the geometry of these incisions results in locking of the walls one by the other when they move towards one another due to shearing of the block 1, and thus of the walls of the incisions in the longitudinal direction, when the tire rotates. Other incisions of the self-locking type do exist, for example incisions exhibiting wavy lines over their entire depth. The incisions may also be of the type whose walls each comprise zones in relief formed by protrusions and cavities or indeed incisions of variable thickness

over their height. These various types of incision are described in particular in ~~patent applications FR~~French Patents No. 2 722 144 and ~~FR~~No. 2 804 905 (corresponding to Publication WO 03/029031).